## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 03433 212209Z ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 HA-05 L-03 H-01 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 PPT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /028 W --------069313 212216Z /15

O 212155Z AUG 78 FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3810 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL ASUNCION 3433

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, CARR, CASD, PA

SUBJECT: W/W ARREST: INTERIOR MINISTER SAYS PRISONERS WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO BOLIVIA

1. THREE AMERICANS DETAINED AT POLICE COMMISSARY FOR JUST OVER 24 HOURS HAVE NOW BEEN HANDED OVER TO JUDICIAL AUTHORITY AND TRANSFERRED TO TACUMBU PRISON. CHIEF INSPECTOR CALEANO TOLD U.S. CONSUL AND DCM THAT PARAGUAYAN LAW REQUIRED THAT CHARGE BE MADE WITHIN 24 HOURS OF ARREST AND THAT HE HAD DELAYED TRANSFER TO ALLOW EMBASSY TIME TO ARRANGE INFORMAL METHOD FOR RELEASING DETAINEES. ACCORDING TO GALEANO, INTERPOL AGREEMENTS PROVIDE FOR DETENTION NO MORE THAN 30 DAYS IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST BY OTHER MEMBER STATE PENDING FORMAL EXTRADITION.

2. INTERIRO MINISTER MONTANARO RETURNED AMBASSADOR'S CALL LATE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 21 AND SAID LACK OF EXTRADITION TREATY WITH BOLIVIA MEANT GOP WOULD RELEASE PRISONERS AT EXPIRATION OF 30- DAYS INTERPOL LIMIT. HE ALSO SAID THERE WERE TWO WAYS TO REDUCE TIME PRISONERS WOULD SPEND IN TACUMBU PRISON. FIRST, BY USG CONVINCING BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT THAT SINCE NO AVENUE FOR EXTRADITON EXISTS, IT SHOULD WITHDRAW REQUEST FOR PARAGUAY TO KEEP PRISONERS UNDER 30-DAY DETENTION. SECOND AVENUE IS FOR AMEMBASSY ASUNCION TO CONVINCE FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES TOSEND A NOTE TO MONTANARO SAYING GOP HAS CONFIDENTIAL.

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NO INTEREST IN KEEPING PRISONERS IN JAIL FOR FULL PERIOD
PERMITTED AND THEY SHOULD BE RELEASED FOR RETURN TO THE U.S.
AMBASSADOR ASKED MONTANRO FOR ASSURANCE THAT GOP WOULD NOT CONSIDER
INFORMAL ARRANGEMENT TO HAND OVER PRISONERS TO BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES.
HE GUARANTEED THE AMBASSADOR THEY WOULD NOT BE INFORMALLY
DEPORTED

3. AMBASSADOR INTENDS TO SEE NOGUES TOMORROW MORNING TO PURSUE SECOND COURSE OF ACTION. AMBASSADOR BOEKER, WHO HAS PROBABLY ALREADY SPOKEN WITH BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES, IS BEST JUDGE OF THEIR LIKELY REACTION TO FIRST OPTION PROPOSED BY MONTANARO. WHITE

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